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COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Letter dated 5 May 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia adopted at its meeting on 4 May 1995 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the victory over fascism.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/50/50.

Annex

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia marks the fiftieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and pays tribute with greatest piety to the countless victims of its own and all other peoples fallen in the struggle to defeat fascism, the greatest evil of the twentieth century. The Yugoslav people's liberation and anti-Fascist struggle was an accomplishment of the brave patriotic and progressive forces which refused to kneel down before the Fascist force and occupation and stood up resolutely in the defence of the right to freedom and human dignity.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers it its duty to recall that the Serbian and Montenegrin peoples were the initiators and the main protagonists of the Yugoslav struggle for freedom and a powerful and reliable ally of the anti-Fascist coalition from April 1941 till the end of the war. They fought for liberation from Fascist occupation not only in Serbia and Montenegro, but also in the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia.

One million seven hundred and six thousand Yugoslavs were killed in the four-year liberation war; the vast majority of them were Serbs and Montenegrins. Hundreds of thousands of Serbs were displaced or expelled, one fourth of the Serbian population was made homeless and many settlements and invaluable cultural assets were destroyed.

Over 700,000 Serbs were murdered in a monstrous genocide only in the territory of the independent State of Croatia, the Croatian-Muslim creation under the tutelage of the Axis Powers. The testimony of this massacre is Jasenovac, the greatest concentration camp in the Balkans in which, in addition to Serbs, many Jews and Romanies were also put to death. Unfortunately, these days this symbol of the genocide of the Serbian people has again become the victim of the most recent armed aggression of Croatia against the Serbian people.

Our people achieved this victory over Fascist occupiers and liberated itself by relying on its own patriotic and freedom-loving forces. Tying down in the Yugoslav theatre large enemy forces, our people made an immeasurable contribution to the struggle and victory of the Allies. In doing so, it ensured for itself an honourable place in history, as well as equality in relations among peoples of Europe and the world.

For these reasons, the present attempts to deprive the Serbian and Montenegrin peoples, who remained outside the borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia due to the forcible break-up of the former Yugoslavia, of their inalienable national and human rights to self-determination and their own existence, recognized to all other peoples of the former Yugoslavia, are all the more unjustifiable and unacceptable.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that it is necessary to heed the lessons and experiences of World War Two and the anti-Fascist struggle. We perceive a secure and peaceful future of relations in Europe and the world only in the conditions of a just peace, democratization and the equality of all

peoples and States. It is therefore necessary to remove from the practice of international relations all forms of pressure, excommunication and collective punishment of any State or people.

With these ideals in mind, for which so many sacrifices were made in the struggle against fascism, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the international community to exert efforts towards achieving a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis in an impartial way and with equal treatment of all parties to the conflict.